

11-14-1972

New Civilisation Course at the University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"New Civilisation Course at the University of Dayton" (1972). *News Releases*. 5727.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/5727

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

DAYTON, Ohio, November 14, 1972 --- Sir Kenneth Clark's famous "Civilisation" film series will form the basis for a new course at the University of Dayton. Described as "multidisciplinary," the Civilisation course will be taught jointly by three faculty members-from History, Fine Arts, and Theology.

The thirteen "Civilisation" films, created by Lord Clark for the British Broadcasting Corporation, have achieved an international reputation through showings on television and have been characterized by educators as the most effective educational films ever produced.

The U.D. course will use the films to explore western thought and culture from the early Middle Ages to modern times. Lectures and discussions will be handled jointly by Dr. Leroy V. Eid, chairman of the Department of History, Professor Joann E. Fiehler of Fine Arts, and Rev. William G. Vrasdonk of Theology.

Through stunning visual imagery of art and landscape, the films depict western man's achievements in civilization. Masterpieces of music on the soundtrack enhance the portrait. Throughout the film series, Lord Clark serves so effectively as narrator and guide that CBS executive Mike Dann described him as "a major television personality, a cross between Maurice Evans and Alistair Cooke."

In the U.D. course, the text of Lord Clark's "Civilisation" book as well as other pertinent readings will supplement study of the film.

Designated as Humanities Studies 301, the course will be taught during the January-April 1973 term on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-7:15 P.M. in Wohlleben Hall 218. Students will earn three credits in Humanities Studies and may have the credits recognized as History, Fine Arts, or Theology credits.

A SYNOPSIS OF CIVILISATION

1. THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH - A synoptic view of the thousand years between the fall of Rome and the rise of the great Gothic.
2. THE GREAT THAW - An awakening Europe sits for a magnificent portrait. This is the era of the great Gothic, with the glorious cathedral of Chartres its epitome.
3. ROMANCE AND REALITY - The Thirteenth Century marks the emergence of woman as an ideal.
4. MAN-THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS - In this film, the great names are Botticelli, Masaccio, Bellini, Giorgione, and Van Eyck. The place is Italy. The time is the early 15th Century.
5. THE HERO AS ARTIST - About the year 1500, we see the full power of the Renaissance strike like lightening with Pope Julius, Michelangelo, Raphael and Bramance.
6. PROTEST AND COMMUNICATION - The Gutenberg printing press comes into its own. The great figures include Erasmus, Sir Thomas More, Durer, Holbein, Martin Luther, and Shakespeare.
7. GRANDEUR AND OBEDIENCE - In a thousand stunning images, this film documents the lushness and luxury of early Baroque. The works of Rubens, Titian and Bernini were the acme of popular art.
8. THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE - The 17th Century Dutch painters-Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Vermeer and Saenredam dominate this film, because the Dutch first grasped the revolutionary change in thought that replaced divine authority with experience, experiment and observation.

9. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS - The 18th Century-Bach and Handel, the St. Matthew Passion and the Messiah, Mozart and Haydn. The great names in music and the great themes in art. Happiness was there for the plucking.
10. THE SMILE OF REASON - The art and sculpture on display in this visit to the 18th Century might be characterized as a Gallery of Smiles.
11. THE WORSHIP OF NATURE - Whatever one may say of Romantics like Rousseau, Goethe and Wordsworth, they had the courage of their convictions.
12. THE FALLACIES OF HOPE - The dreams of the 18th Century were blasted by the betrayals of the 19th. We have Beethoven, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gough and Gauguin.
13. HEROIC MATERIALISM - The Skyscraper, the suspension bridge, and the machine all are objects which express the deepest feelings and aspirations of our time.